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# THE IOWA COLLECTOR

IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Winter 1995

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**THE IOWA COLLECTOR**  
**Volume 30, Number 4 - Winter 1995**

**A Publication of the Iowa Numismatic Association**

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# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

We have just completed the Annual I.N.A. Show and Convention in Fort Dodge. What a wonderful event! The time and effort spent in planning and arranging for this event were very much in evidence. Thank you so much to Paul Becker, all of his staff, and the Fort Dodge Coin Club as we all had a great time!

Now we are off to Cedar Rapids for the 1996 festivities, but let's not forget the mid-year I.N.A. Board Meeting in Nevada in conjunction with Coin-A-Rama scheduled for February 24 & 25. This show is sponsored by the Ames Coin Club.

We do not have a show site for 1997 or 1998. Please discuss this at your next coin club meeting. Any club that has an interest or questions should contact their District Representative, JoAnn or me. It could be a real boost for your club.

We covered several subjects at the Annual Board Meeting in Fort Dodge. Among them was the first reading and approval of a motion to divide District 1 into two districts and numbered 1 and 2. The remaining districts 2 thru 7 would be numbered accordingly. This motion to amend the constitution would be effective with the election of 1998. It requires one more reading and approval at the 1996 General membership Meeting to be official. Please advise any Board Member of any objections or questions you may have.

Also, we approved to have telephone numbers of all Board Members published in the "The Iowa Collector". The telephone number of a contact person for each club listed in the "When and Where Iowa's Coin Clubs Meet" will be included too.

We do have a new coin club in Iowa. Richard Trinity of District 7 reports that the Red Oak Stamp & Coin Club had their first meeting in October. Congratulations! If you have any ideas to assist the new club or desire to become a member, contact Richard.

It is that time again. Those individuals desiring to place a advertisement in the Iowa Collector for 1996 should contact JoAnn as soon as possible!

Finally, the position of Historian for the I.N.A. has been vacant for years. We need to have this position filled. Any one who is interested please contact me

**Roger A. Wolver, Sr., President**

# SHOW CALENDAR

Feb 24 & 25, **Nevada, IA.** Coin-a-rama, Coin, Stamp, Postcard Expo & Show, Gates Memorial Hall, 825 15th St. Bourse: Scott Nichols (515) 232-9222.

March 10, **Cedar Rapids, IA.** Cedar Rapids Coin Club Coin Show, Sheraton Inn, 525 33rd Ave. SW, (West side of I 380 at 33rd Ave, Exit) Bourse: Nevin Roberts (319) 377-6974.

Mar 30 & 31, **Keokuk, IA.** Keokuk Coin Club Annual Collector's Spring Show, Keosippi Mall. Bourse: Tom Gardner (319) 524-7366.

Apr 6, **Sioux City, IA.** Siouxland Coin Club's Annual Spring Collectibles & Coin Show. Bourse: Ron Thompson (712) 239-5205.

Apr 14, **Bettendorf, IA.** Quad City Coin Club Show.

Apr 27 & 28, **Oskaloosa, IA.** Oskaloosa Coin Club Coin, Stamp, Comic Book & Sportscard Show, Penn Central Mall, 200 High Ave. West. Bourse: Gail McKee, (515) 673-4011.

Nov 12, **Kansas City, MO.** Central States Numismatic Society Annual Convention & Show.

May 19, **Waterloo, IA.** Waterloo-Cedar Falls Coin Clubs Annual Show, Waterloo Recreation Center, West First & Commercial Streets, Bourse: Rosie Kern (310) 984-5992.

**Reminder:** If your Coin Club is preparing to schedule a Coin Show, please contact the I.N.A. Show Coordinator prior to scheduling the event. This will avoid scheduling conflicts and provides the information for inclusion in this Show Calendar. The current Show Coordinator is: Roger A. Wolver, 309 North 11th, Oskaloosa, IA 52577, Tel: (515) 673-6677 or (515) 673-6633

# Secretary's Message

I hope you got a chance to attend the I.N.A. Annual Show held in Ft. Dodge - it was great! Our thanks to a hard working committee of 12 very ably served by Co-chairman Paul Becker and Mike Seacci. We as an I.N.A. Board want to again thank them for the hard work and a very successful show. The 47 dealers were pleased with their arrangements, the hospitality room with a meat and cheese and cracker tray available twice a day on Saturday, with an assortment of soft drinks free for the dealers and membership, to the terrific banquet of Prime Rib, followed with Chet Krause as speaker, and then the auction which was completed by 9:00 PM with a wide array of quality coins, and the Clarion Coin Club's addition of tokens to finish the auction, all made for a busy but successful day.

Sunday started with the Chapel, then the Board meeting before the Bourse opened, was a busy day for dealers too. The gold piece, given at the banquet, was won by our past president, Dean Petersen.

It was a change in plans to have Chet Krawse, instead of Cliff Mishler, as banquet speaker, was received as a special treat. To have the author of so many Numismatic books, and unlisted author of other books he helped with, was an enlightening experience.

I thank those who paid their dues at the meeting, as it saves me a lot of work and postage. I will also take dues at the Coin-a-Rama before the rest of your get your reminder from me that it is past dues time.

I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year!!!!

**JoAnn Peters**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

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## **When and Where Iowa's Coin Clubs Meet:**

**Ames** - Last Wednesday, Senior Citizens Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Burlington** - Last Tuesday, Midwest Federal Savings, Roosevelt & Division Streets, 7:00 p.m.

**Cedar Falls** - Next to the Last Tuesday, Cedar Falls Rec. Center, 7:00 p.m.

**Cedar Rapids** - Third Wednesday (except July), KUBA Community Center, 1300 13th Ave SE, 7:30 p.m.

**Clarion** - Forth Wednesday, I.P.S. Pizza Ranch on Main St., 7.30 p.m.

**Davenport** - First Tuesday, Davenport Public Library, 4th & Main St, 7:00 p.m.

**Decorah** - First Tuesday, V.F.W. Building basement, 104 State St. 7:30 p.m.

**Des Moines** - First Tuesday, Baker's Cafeteria, Sherwood Forest, 74th & Hickman Rd. 6:30 p.m.

**Fair field** - Third Tuesday, Hardies, 7:30 p.m.

**Fort Dodge** - Second Thursday, ICCV Voc. Tech Bldg. 7:30 p.m.

**Fort Madison** - Third Tuesday, Midwest Savings & Loan Drive-in, 4520 ave L, 7:30 p.m.

**Grinnell** - Second Monday, Senior Citizens Room, Community Center, 7:30 p.m. (515) 236-3549.

**ILlowa (Clinton)** - Third Thursday, Gateway State Bank, Clinton, 7:30 p.m.

**Independence** - Third Saturday, Courthouse Basement, 7:30 p.m.

**Iris City (Mt. Pleasant)** - First Thursday, Breadoux Pizza, 7:30 p.m.



**Keokuk** - Fourth Thursday (Third Thursday in Nov. & Dec.), Keokuk Sr. High School Library (Summers at SCC's S. Campus Student Lounge), 7:30 p.m.

**Old Capital (Iowa City)** - Second Tuesday, West High School, Room 13, 7:30 p.m.

**Oskaloosa** - Second Tuesday, Basement of Farm Bureau Building, 7:30 p.m.  
(515) 949-6430

**Ottumwa** - Fourth Tuesday, Colormaster, Inc., 800 Gateway Dr., 7:30 p.m.  
(515) 684-6006

**Port City (Muscatine)** - Fourth Tuesday, Holiday Inn, Muscatine, Hwys. 61 & 38, 7:30 p.m.

**Quad City (Moline, IL)** - Third Thursday, Garden Center, 5th Ave at 34th St., 7:30 p.m.

**Red Oak** - First Monday, Public Library, 6:30 p.m.

**Siouxland (Sioux City)** - First Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Krantz Hobby, S. St. Aubin St., Phone (712) 276-7079

**Storm Lake** - Third Thursday, IPS Meeting Room, Winters at 7:30 p.m.; Summers at 8:00 p.m.

**Wadena** - Third Thursday, Historical Center, West Union, 8:00 p.m.

**Waterloo** - Second Thursday, Waterloo Arts & Recreation Center, First and Commercial Streets, 7:00 p.m.

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# 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial Commemorative Half Dollar

## Part 15

*"It Is Almost Miraculous"*

by Michael S. Turrini

Listening to a rambling sermon of an old Irish priest at one Mass years ago, he rejoined, to emphasize some Catholic dogma, that there were three types of lies, paraphrasing an old saying, "lies, damn lies, and statistics."

With all the preceding articles recurring references to numbers, amounts, totals, dollars and cents, dates, and such, those statistics, that third lie, have been a major component, repeatedly pronounced, in these articles. For those enjoying numerology or working with numbers, those "number-crunchers," the intent of this 15th article is to analyze, and in the process iterate, the breakdown of the total mintage of one hundred thousand (100,000) as close as possible to the single half dollar.

Among all the classic United States commemorative coinages from 1892 to 1954, at one hundred thousand, the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial Commemorative half dollar had a huge mintage. True, for example, the Illinois Centennial some 38 years prior in 1918 was identical at 100,000, and the Monroe Doctrine Centennial tipped the scale with over a quarter-of-a-million, but a quick skimming of the Red book would verify this mintage as enormous when contrasted to many infinitesimal commemorative coinage issues.

Public Law 612, HR 2377, in its opening paragraph was specific in that "there shall be coined not to exceed one hundred thousand silver 50-cent pieces of standard size, weight, and composition." All of the standard numismatic references--the Red book, Breen's Encyclopedia, Swiatek and Breen's scholarly work, and others--list the final mintage as 100,057: 100,000 coined with 57 reserved for assay.

The author has not learned, as of yet, why this mintage maximum was chosen. Representative Karl LeCompote (1887-1972), who

authored and shepherded the legislation through Congress may have originally sought a larger maximum, possibly 250,000.

With a large mintage, and there was-never a thought to minting less than the maximum, and also with the latest into the year, the half dollars would not be minted until late November 1946, there was never a doubt, nor is research necessary to prove, that the entire mintage would have to be struck at the Philadelphia Mint. In addition to these factors were the considerations that Adam Pietz (1873-1961), the half dollar's designer, was just recently retired from the Philadelphia Mint and worked out of his studio also in Philadelphia. So, it does not take much to understand why the choice was solely the Philadelphia mint.

In an October 19, 1946 letter from the Chairman of the Subcommittee on the coin of the Full Iowa Centennial Committee Ralph Evans (1896-1973) to Leland Howard, the Acting Director of the United States Mint, corresponding on "the production schedule for the Iowa Commemorative half dollar," Mr. Evans declared, "we shall want the full number of coins permitted under the Act, namely, one hundred thousand." The incongruity of this letter is that Ralph Evans, misinterpreting some prior correspondence, requests "would it be practicable for us to obtain the additional ten thousand coins...?" This question surely substantiates that the Iowa Centennial Committee wanted the full permitted mintage. Needless to say, Mr. Howard within a few days replied curtly that the "maximum number" authorized is "100,000 pieces."

Although the law was precise and the Mint's correspondence was strict, Ralph Evans was not the only one seeking to have an increased mintage. Even Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989), trained as a lawyer and provided copies of the Act, thought initially not just additional coinage was possible but that "there is no limitation..."

The objective of this article is not to review the actual production and striking, something reserved for an ensuing article; however, these two prior correspondences demonstrate that the mintage would be its full legal limit.

Getting back to the mintage amount and how it was distributed, State Treasurer John M. Grimes (1873-1971) in a December 2, 1946

*Iowa Great Lakes Coins is buying...*

*sets*

*partial sets*

*original dollar rolls*

*circ dollars*

*nice type coin*

*especially interested in:*

*nice Indian Head Pennies*

*and Buffalo Nickels (paying bid & up)*

*also*

*Arnolds Park, Okoboji, and Spirit Lake*

*postcards & memorabilia*

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letter to the Mint instructed that the entire mintage be shipped in four groups. Refer to PCNS Journal, January 1992, Number 30. Of these four groups, one of 10,000 half dollars would be shipped "express collect" directly to his attention at the State Capital Building. This shipment was in "five bags, 10,000 pieces Iowa Centennial Half Dollars;" each bag weighed 57 pounds with a total weight of 285 pounds. Value was declared to be "\$5,000.00." Shipped December 4, 1946 and delivered in Des Moines on December 6, 1946 via Railway Express Agency (REA); charges would be \$27.60. Compare this shipping charge and time to contemporary services, and this in 1946 could have been advertised a "next-day-service!"

Now with the half dollars in Des Moines and soon to be distributed by local Iowa banks, how were the half dollars parceled? First, refer to PCNS Journal, October 1991, Number 29, and also, the prior seven mini-series articles "Collectors, Too, Buy The Coin" have already critiqued such. To remind only 90,000 half dollars were initially placed on sale within Iowa to Iowans.

Continuing, the Mint invoiced \$50,000.00 for 100,000 half dollars, but the final accounted number delivered totaled 99,999. One missing? Out of a mintage this huge, such should have been a small inconsequential error; but, the State Treasurer, enthusiastic for accuracy, dutifully recorded it and balanced according. Thanks to the honesty of all those handling these half dollars and the profuse records left, this missing half dollar can even be pinpointed. The Bankers Trust Company, then one of Iowa's major banks and one of three Des Moines banks directed to receive one of the shipments from the Mint, "discovered" one bag short one half dollar. Readers are invited to read also PCNS Journal, January 1992, Number 30 for more insight into the banks and distribution.

Now one knows the mintage, learned that one half dollar was short, can identify each individual bank's quota, and the final reckoning of the sales, which is listed as:

<u>SALES</u>	<u>COINS</u>
Halves sent to banks	88,298
Halves Returned from banks	<u>-3,884</u>

Net sales by banks	84,414
Sold by Treasurer @2.50	1,988
Sold by Treasurer @3.00	1,950
Sold outside State @3.00	10,570
Coin on hand	1
Short on delivery from Mint	1
Gratis to Adam Pietz	25
Reserved	<u>1,050</u>
Total	99,999

What would be of curiosity to numerologists and numismatists are comparisons with this supposed final reckoning, done just after the first of April 1947 end of sales, with other tabulations, starting with a handwritten five column ledger sheet entry dated March 14, 1947

Distributed thru local Banks	84,414 @ \$2.50
Distributed thru Treasurer	1,989 @ \$2.50
Distributed thru Treasurer	1,556 @ \$3.00
Distributed outside Iowa	8,848
Distributed Gratis to Cong. Martin	2
Distributed Gratis to Designer of Coin	25
Short in Bankers Trust	1
Coins on hand, March 14, 1947	<u>3,164</u>
	99,999

It is provocative to note two differences between these two separate accountings both done by someone in the Iowa State Treasurer's Office. First, who was that "Cong. Martin" who received two half dollars "gratis?" Was he the famous Massachusetts Representative and sometime Speaker of the House of Representatives Joseph W. Martin (1884-1968)? Or, was it Iowa's own Representative and later Senator Thomas E. Martin (1893-1971)? Who presented these halves? Why were these later not accounted? Did someone reimburse their cost?

(Continued on page 16)



# A Brief History of the Seated Liberty Dime

By J. Zillion, Westlake Rare Coins

The seated Liberty Dime has long been a perennial favorite among U.S. type collectors, due mainly to its appealing design. We owe credit for the basic design to engravers Thomas Sully, who designed the obverse, and Christian Gobrecht, who took Sully's obverse and mated it with a unique wreath reverse of his own.

Sully's original obverse was used on the "No Stars" dimes of 1837 and 1838. It depicts an allegorical seated representation of Liberty holding a pole upon which is perched the traditional Liberty Cap. The other hand supports a shield bearing the word "Liberty". On Gobrecht's reverse, "United States of America" encircles a laurel wreath, which in turn surrounds the denomination "One Dime".

In 1838 it was decided to modify the obverse by adding 13 stars to represent the original 13 colonies. This type remained through late 1840, and is called the "No Drapery" design by collectors, due to liberty's exposed shoulder and arm. These exposed parts later caused some controversy with the general public, who deemed the design "improper". Therefore, at the end of 1840, engraver Robert Hughes' new, modified obverse was adopted. The major differences in Hughes' design were flatter contours, concealed by bulkier, more "respectable" drapery.

Aside from the dimes of 1853-55 (which had arrows at the date to signify a weight change), the Seated Liberty design remained unchanged until 1860. At that time, engraver James Longacre moved "United States Of America" to the obverse and changed the reverse wreath to one of a grain-ornamented "cereal" type. He also re-engraved the figure of Liberty, strengthening previously weak details. Another weight change gave rise to two more "arrows at date" issues in 1873 and 1874; the coin remained unchanged thereafter until its replacement with the Barber Dime in 1892.

The Seated Liberty Dime series is indeed a challenge for collectors. Scarce and low mintage coins abound through the series' 54-year run, indeed too many to list. Generally speaking, branch mint issues and the early "No Stars" pieces seem to bring higher premiums. The unique 1873-CC "No Arrows" dime is perhaps the most famous Carson City issue, and is certainly a classic American rarity.

Despite the number of scarce and rare coins in the Seated Liberty series, it contains many very collectable yet inexpensive pieces as well. Whether one is a beginner, an advanced collector, or somewhere in between, this coin series has something for everyone.

*(Printed by permission of the ILNA Coin Digest.)*



### **(Iowa Half - From Page 15)**

Interesting. Second, in about two weeks, March 14, 1947 to April 1, 1947, the remaining listed 3,164 half dollars would be sold. Not-to-shabby closing to the final sales period.

Continuing, on the same ledger sheet across the bottom was another accounting in the same hand but undated, and it records that three half dollars remain unsold, at some unknown date, but definitely after March 14, 1947. Again, something for the "number-crunchers"



To add to these comparisons and reckonings, Governor Blue in his Executive Order of January 5, 1949 had his own accounting:

Coins Sold	98,923
to: members of Centennial Comm., et al.	50
Coin lost in Mail	1
Reserved for 1996 and 2046	<u>1,000</u>
	99,974

Of course, with all these numbers, the reader might lose interest and wonder what is the point. To this author, this half-dollar is unique, absolutely alone, among any coinage in that its entire mintage can be tabulated, accounted, and balanced. It is not beyond possibility that some of the six hundred fifty (650) local Iowa banks distributing half dollars during December 1946 and January 1947 may have recorded purchasers and retained even to this day those names in a forgotten dust-covered file. Not to be forgotten, the Executive Secretary of the Iowa Centennial Committee Edith W. McElroy's (1887-1975) routine and religious accountings furnish a daily record of the final sales period in its last two months, February and March, 1947. Much may have been disposed of as the years passed, yet no individual coin, commemorative or circulation legal tender, ever generated such paper records which can be so examined. Maybe, in a purposeful combination of amusement and medieval scholasticism, this is why this author could unexactly write this present article: there are so numerous "numbers-to-crunch" It would have been most fascinating if in 1946 personal computers and gigantic interconnected mainframe computers existed. One could have "zeroed-in" on a minute-by-minute basis, rather than Mrs. McElroy's tedious hand manipulated daily chore. Oh well, to you "number-crunchers" adios. Remember, though, this was all before the advent of our contemporary computer age, and as the Chairman of the Iowa Centennial Committee Lester Milligan (1893-1977) in a letter to State Treasurer John M. Grimes observed, "it is almost miraculous to think there would be one coin unaccounted for out of the entire one hundred thousand."

**J.E. "Jack" Glass  
TOKEN COLLECTOR**

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**Roger A. Wolver**

# Join the Iowa Numismatic Association!

## Membership

Any person interested in numismatics, over eighteen years of age and of good moral character may become a member upon recommendation of the membership committee. Dues to be \$5.00 per year.

## Object

The object of this corporation shall be to:

Encourage and promote the science of numismatics.

Cultivate fraternal relationships among coin collectors and students.

Foster the interest of youth in the subject.

Encourage and assist new collectors.

Stimulate and advance affiliations between our associations and kindred organizations in the united states and foreign countries.

Acquire and disseminate numismatic knowledge.

Generally represent numismatic interests throughout the State of Iowa.

## Junior Members

Any person between the ages of 0 and 18 years old and sponsored by a senior member be considered for junior membership. Junior members may not hold office, but may vote for elective officers. Dues to be \$2.00 per year.

## Officers

Officers are elected every two years by membership vote, by mail ballot, and take office at the annual convention following the election. Officers consist of sixteen members, including the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary/Treasurer, the immediate Past-President, and eleven Directors.

The annual membership meeting is held each year at the Iowa Numismatic Association's annual convention in the Fall.

The Iowa Collector, the official bulletin, is published three times each year and sent to each member. The I.N.A., upon request, will help the heirs of any member of good standing find a qualified person or persons, in his or her area, to appraise a estate

For further information about the I.N.A. contact any member, director or officer. A application has been enclosed with this issue of The Iowa Collector. To join fill it in and send it along with your check to:

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Iowa Numismatic Association - Area 4 Director

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

I hereby make application for membership in the **IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION**, subject to the provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

Send this application together with \$5.00 for the current year's dues. Young applicants' dues are \$2.00 per year until age eighteen.

NOTE: The I.N.A. year runs from January 1st to January 1st..

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicants Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date & Year of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

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